



The tadpole of *Rhinella crucifer* (WIED-NEUWIED, 1821) (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae) from southern Bahia, Brazil

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According to Baldissera *et al.* (2004) the *Rhinella crucifer* group includes five recognized species: *Rhinella crucifer* (Wied-Neuwied, 1821); *R. ornata* (Spix, 1824); *R. henseli* (A. Lutz, 1924); *R. abei* and *R. pombali* (Baldissera, Caramaschi & Haddad, 2004). The distribution of this group is associated to the Atlantic Rain Forest, from Ceará to Rio Grande do Sul, adjacent areas in Minas Gerais and São Paulo, Brazil. One species also occurs in Uruguay and northeastern Argentina, in the Misiones and Corrientes provinces (Baldissera *et al.* 2004; Frost 2011). Thomé *et al.* (2010) in a phylogeographic study of the *Rhinella crucifer* group identified two subclades in northeastern Brazil and adjacent areas: one ranging from Bahia to Paraíba and another from Minas Gerais to Espírito Santo. Of five species belonging to the *R. crucifer* group, only two have described tadpoles, *R. ornata* and *R. pombali* (Heyer *et al.* 1990, where the tadpole described as *R. crucifer* represents *R. ornata*; Lourenço *et al.* 2010). Here we described the tadpole of *R. crucifer* from a population from southern Bahia.

We collected 20 tadpoles in a temporary pond in a rubber tree plantation at Reserva Ecológica da Michelin (13°49'35"S, 39°08'32" W), Igrapiúna, Bahia, northeastern Brazil on 10 August 2011. The locality is about 100 km northwards from the type-locality of *R. crucifer*. An amplexant pair of *R. crucifer* was also collected to obtain a clutch. Tadpoles were raised in the laboratory and compared with tadpoles collected in the field. Only tadpoles from the field were used to obtain measurements and for the morphological description. Some of them were preserved in 10% formalin and deposited in the zoological collection at Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz, Ilhéus, Bahia (MZUESC 10237). Measurements and terminology follow Altig & McDiarmid (1999), except for the oral disc width: we considered the transverse measurement as disc width. Morphometric measurements and illustrations were obtained with a stereoscopic microscope (Olympus) coupled to a camera lucida.

We made the following measurements: total length (TL); body length (BL); body width (BW); body height (BH); tail length (TAL); tail height (TAH); dorsal fin height (DFH); ventral fin height (VFH); internostril distance (IND); interorbital distance (IOD); eye diameter (ED); nostril diameter (ND); eye-nostril distance (END); nostril-snout distance (NSD); eye-snout distance (ESD); snout-spiracle distance (SSD); and oral disc width (ODW).

Description of the tadpole. Body ovoid in dorsal, ventral, and lateral views (Figure 1); BL about 41% of TL; BH and BW represent, respectively, 61% and 73% of BL. Snout rounded in dorsal view and slightly rounded in lateral view. Nostrils oval shaped, oriented laterally with diameter about 4% of BL; NSD and END represent respectively 14% and 7% of BL; IND about 14% of BW. Eyes located dorsolaterally, with diameter about 11% of BL, IOD about 31% of BW. Spiracle tube sinistral, with posterodorsally oriented opening, being nearer to the vent tube than to the snout. Vent tube medial, well developed, with both walls connected to the ventral fin; TAL about 58% of TL, TAH about 83% of BH. Dorsal fin originating at the same point as the caudal musculature, which is convex, with almost the same height as the dorsal fin. Posterior end of tail rounded. Oral disc ventral, laterally emarginated, its width representing approximately 35% of BW, surrounded by a uniseriate row of marginal papillae with few submarginal papillae nearly reaching the jaw. Upper jaw arcuate-shaped and lower arc V-shaped, both slightly serrated. Labial tooth row formula 2(2)/3.

Mean values (in mm) and standard deviations of measurements of tadpoles (n = 20) of *R. crucifer* at Gosner (1960) stages 31 ? 39 are as follows: TL: 19.96 ± 1.05; BL: 8.34 ± 0.46; BW: 6.13 ± 0.29; BH: 5.08 ± 0.21; TAL: 11.62 ± 0.74;